

You can gamble that he will Sam, Luke is the best Sheriff in/ the state of Colorado. Give us a drink Sam I can't see my way clear to drink alone. (Toney up to bar) Have something yourself Sam.

Sam.

I believe I will. Sam, it is about time for a drink.

Bat.

It is always time when there is dark in sight. (All drink) Goes to table plays Solitaire) Say Sam has Roxy said anything about me lately?

Sam.

Sure thing, you've got the only chance of any of the boys in Rio Blanca count

Bat.

Bully have another drink (They drink.) I think I'll go over and feed my face and drop in later, There's no use talking Sam, Roxy is the only girl on the ranch and I'm going to get her.

Sam.

Think so Bat?

Bat.

But you don't need to worry Sam, you will have a job here just the same when I am boss of the place.

Sam.

That's dam kind of you Bat, I though maybe you'd give me the run.

Bat.

Sure no, you worked for her dad, and after he died you worked for her, and when she is my wife I won't have her tend to the bar like she is doing now, I'll do that myself and of course, I'll have to have some help--so you--

Sam.

Got it all planned out ain't you bat? Well it is a fine dream anyhow. (Laughs)

Bat.

Oh I'll get her and you can gamble your last stack of white chips on that proposition. (Kits Door L.)

Sam.

It's going to be pretty hard on Bat when he wakes up. I don't like this here thing of being left alone, so much that road agent is near this place and there is so much money in the express office waiting for old Horton off Bar C ranch it would be a fine haul for an enterprising bandit--

Betsy.

(Ent C.D.) Hello Sam.

Sam.

Miss Betsy I am mighty glad to see you.

Betsy.

Has the Chinaman been here this morning?

Sam.

Ain't seen him, he ought to be here though. I ain't got a clean shirt to put on till he brings it.

Bet.

That's what I-I-I-I---

Sam.

What Miss Betsy a clean shirt?

Bet.

No you fool he has got my washing. And he promised to bring it up to the house an hour ago, where's Roxy?

Sam.

Down in the valley picking flowers I suppose.

Bet

I wish that girl would listen to reason ever since her father died I have been trying to get her to come and live with me, but she won't do it, she insists upon living here in this saloon and if she ain't careful folks will talk about her.

Sam

Well, I don't think that would make no difference to Roxy everybody knows that she is as straight as a string, and it wouldn't be healthy for the man or woman who said a word against her.

Bet

Yes, Sam you're right, a nicer girl never lived when Roxy comes tell her I was here to see her see you again. (exit C)

Sam

Betsy would make a mighty fine wife and a wife is a mighty good thing to have in a family. (back to bar)

Luke

(enter D R had dog in arm one paw tied up in rag) You poor little devil its tough aint it, but you will be all right poco tempo

Sam

Hello, Luke where did you gather in the St Bernard/

Luke

Greezer stepped on his leg in front of Delmonicos and broke it.

Sam

What happend to the greesser?

Luke

Well, he's laid up for repairs.

Sam

(examining dog) Cracked five eh, too bad, but he's only a cur, might as well croak him

Luke

Kill him?

Sam

Sure, why not?

Luke

Why, Sam, I never killed a man without giving him a chance to defend himself, and if I ever go in for murder I aint going to begin on harmless little dogs, I've put his leg in a splint you take him in, and give him something to eat he'll come around all right.

Sam

Just as you say, Luke, I'll stuff him full of sirloin steak if you say so. (takes dog puts him behind counter) Here you are, Rover. (takes sheet from behind shelf folds it puts it behind counter as if putting it there for dog) Ton y went after a custard pie for me when he brings it I will divide it.

Bat

(enter C D) Hello, Luke Allison, just rode into town.

Luke

Allison wats he doin g here?

Bat

He's after Garcia/

Luke

Garcia does he expect to find him here?

Bqt

I don't know, here he comes now, he will tell you all about it. (down L)

All

(enter C D) Hello boys.

Luke

Howgre you Mr Allison glad to see you.

All

Give us a drink Sam Whiskey all around (Sa m brings bottle to table L Luke goes to table)

Luke

Bat says you're here after Garcia.

All

Yes, and I expect to get him right here in your city.

Luke

Maybe so , but you have been looking for him for about three mo ths haven't you?

All

Yes, three months but I'm on the right track at aast.

Luke

They say he robs like a gentleman

All

Do you know a woman in this neighborhood called Carmetrella?

Luke

We'll, I guess all the boys know he r---what has she got to do with Garcia?

All

She answered the reward bill (points to bill on wall)

Luke

Whats the five thousand, does she?

All

Yes, she says she will show us where to get our man, I am to meet her here tonight

Luke

Better leave your matter with me and don't bring her here Allison we don't allow that kind of cattle in the ranchman's rest---the proprietor here is a lady.

All

I don't want to do anything to offend Roxy but the express office is here (motioning) And---

Luke

That don't make a bit of difference the woman can't come through that door You know me, Allison, and when I say a thing, I mean it.

All

That all right Luke, you and I aint going to quarrell, ai know how you feel about Roxy---and--- (Sam by this time has served drink to all at table)

Luke

Maybe you do, but just to make sure of it Just drink this toast to me (raises glasses) The girl I'm going to make Mrs Luke short (all raise Glasses but Bat he laughs) What the devil are you laughing at?

Bat

Nothing, Luke---nothing, only when it comes to marrying Roxy you're a Chinaman.

Luke

I see you're looking for trouble. Did you come heeled? (Luke and Bat look at each other then Luke raises his arm waist high in front of him they both make quick movement to hip pocket all dodge out of the way entrance music lively)

Sam

(up looking off L 3) Out it boys and girls. (both laugh raise glasses at table D 1 Allison at R end of bar---Tony L Sam in front of bar)

All

(together drink) To the girl.

Roxy

(enter L 3) Hello boys. (goes behind bar) Well, if it aint Clay Allison (shake hands) What brings you to Rio Blancy. (Tony exit D left)

All

Road agents, that fellow Garcia was headed this way. the last time I heard of him, and he's the fellow I'm after.

Roxy

As far as I'm concerned, I don't care if he lives or dies, it aint nothing to me one way or the other.

All

That all right, but he is just as likely to hold up the rest as any place else, then where would you be.

Roxy

Right here, selling whiskey and cigars, just eh same as now, why if Garcia was to come in here, I would sell him a drink and I bet he would treat me like a lady.

All

Yes, I reckon he would. (Tony engers D 1) Give me a cigar, Roxy. (she gives

him a cigar and holds the candle he lights it then she takes change from drawer) Keep the change Roxy and buy ribbons for the next time you go to Meeker---compliments.

Roxy

Thanks.

Luke

(has been listening goes up to bar slams coin down) Roxy, you buy two ribbons compliments of Luke (Roxy laughs and puts money in drawer shoots off stageL)

Roxy

Sam, see what the row is. \$5 Sam exits left three) So you're going to catch Garcia here at the ridge are you?

Luke

Yes, I got a tip from Carmentrella-- she says she knows him and wants the reward.

Roxy

Well, maybe she does, she knows all the boys around here, don't she Luke (laughs)

Sam

(enter C D) Theres a fellow in the other room threatening to shoot up the place.

Roxy

Who is he?

Sam

Old bill Hicks/

Roxy

If he's got the price to settle, let him shoot. (Sam exits L 3)

Sam

(outside) Vamnosse ----I aint got time to fool with you now. (enter put coin on bar) One good cigar.

Roxy

(hands cigar) There you are. (Sam takes cigar and starts off) Hold on Sam, who is the cigar for?

Sam

Jim Mason?

Roxy

Give it to me, he don't know a good one when he smokes it, same price. (gets one from different box all laugh, Sam exits)

All

Well, I can't wast anymore time here, I got to find Carmentrella.

Luke

Bat can show you the shack go with him, Bat.

Bat

All right, come on, Allison. (up to door C)

All

See you later.

Luke

All right good luck. (exit Allison and bat) Everybodys gone, now is my chance, Roxy.

Roxy

(rubing glasses with towel) What is it, Luke?

Luke

Will you marry me?

Roxy

Nope.

Luke

Why not?

Roxy

You've got a wife in El Paso.

Luke

Give me a cigar. (puts money on bar. Roxy hands box he takes cigar, she

she holds candle, he takes light, leans on bar he shoves money towards her in manner of gambler putting in stack of chips) I'll give you a dollar for a kiss.

Roxy

Some men have a havit of inviting trouble.

Luke

Well, that is what men are made for when there is a woman in the case.

Roxy

I've got my first giss to give any man, and it don't got to you, you can bet your last dollar on that proposition.

Luke

Why not, I'm a gentleman, aint I?

Roxy

Well, you're nearest to it than anybody around the ride,--Oobut I aint seen enough gentlemen in my life---to be real sure whether you are the genuine article or not.

Luke

See here, Roxy, you can't keep on running this place alone, there is too many stangers coming into the country too much money in circulation, it aint safe for you to be here alone. You need a man, marry me.

Roxy

I'm all right, I've managed this place for over a year now without getting the worst of it, see here Luke short what do you mean by asking me to marry you when you have got a wife already in El Paso I t stikes me that a girl east of the range would call that an isult, and I-am just as respectable as any of them, aint I?

Luke

Of course you are, Roxy, there aint anybody that can say anything about your character.

Roxy

Well, that aint your fault. (he goes D R impatiently she follows him) Now don t get sore, Luke, you know I think a lot of you you're a good fellow and the best man at the ridge, but you aint the man I'd marry,

Luke

Why not?

Roxy

Well, I got my own particular idea of the marrying game. I can remember my father and mother behind the bar evers since I was a little kid so high. When the boys used to come in off the ranch, dad use to deal Faro Bank for them and mother was always in the look out chair many times between turns I have seen him reach over and take her hands just for a few seconds---and you could see in her face how proud and happy she was. Why I don't believe there was a cross word between them No, Luke the man that stands behind the bar with me must be one that I can look up to with all the trust and faith that my mother had in my father, and----well, you aint the fellow, Luke, thats all.

Luke

Something has changed you, Roxy, before you went away on that trip last summerO ---you acted as if I only had to say the word to win you---I nearly had you then.

Roxy

But you didn't, Luke.

Luke

Then you went away to Denver, Cheyenne and when you came back you weren't the same you aint never seemed the same since, did you see anybody while you were gone that you liked better than me.

Roxy

Why of course not, Luke (nervously)

Luke

They say them Denver dudes are hell when it comes to wimmen, I wonder.

Sam

(enter) There is a fellow out here that just rode in from Meeker that wants some water in his whiskey.

Roxy

He can't have it, everybody drinks there whiskeydstraigh in this establâshmet

Sam

Thats what I told him, but he insists.

Roxy

Oh he inists, does he? Send him to me and I'll curl his hair for him.

Sam

(exit)

Luke

I never thought about it, but that accounts for the way you froze up to me when you came back, well if any Denver dude hits the trail at the ridge he'll have to draw damn quick--or he will do his marrying in Hades.

Roxy

You talk foolish Luke. (Lively music)

Jack.

(Ent C.D.) Where is the man who is going to curl my hair for me? ((Look around sees Roxy. Starts they both show they recognize each other unnoticed by Luke)

Sam.

Thats the fellow stranger. (Points to Roxy)

Jack.

You;

Sam.

~~Has~~ Has followed Jack on) She's the boss of the ranchmans ranch.

Roxy.

Oh well thats different. This gentleman can have the whiskey any way he wants it. (Puts out bottle and glass)

Jack.

Thank you but I really do not care for anything right now.

Roxy.

Better have a drink it wont do a bit of harm. (Sam exits D.L. Luke seated at table D.R. Jack and Roxy leaning on the bar.)

Luke,

Sam says you came from Meeker, dont remember seeing you there.

Jack.

Sam, was mistaken, in a way I did come from there. But I was only passing through I dont live there. (Talks to Roxy.)

Luke.

Oh you're a stranger in these here parts, I take it. (They pay no attention) What might your business be. (Pause) Now what in the devil can them two find to talk about. (Picks up cards looks them over watches Jack and Roxy)

Jack.

Then you have'nt forgotten me.

Roxy.

Of course not I knew you the moment you came in.

Jack.

I shall never forget the day I met the coach you were in on the road to Glen Wood. Do you remember what I said when you rode away?

Roxy.

Of course I do you said---

Jack.

Yes.

Roxy.

If you dont remember I dont either.

Jack.

But I do, I said that this has been the happiest moment I had ever known I shall always treasure it in my memory.

Luke.

This is getting dam monotonous to me.

Roxy.

You better have a drink I have a special bottle (Get bottle under bar)

S.

Luke.

(Up to bar knocks glass from it) Look here stranger your ways are offensive to me--I may say dam offensive--I judge you got in the wrong place by mistake. If you are up here looking for Senorita Carmetrella, you'll find her shack on the back trail.

Jack.

I have no desire to meet the lady you just mentioned.

Luke.

Well we dont allow people at the ridge unless we know something about them. What do you want here anyway.

Jack.

I stopped here to rest my horse. And stopped in, here thinking I might find a game of poker to pass the time for an hour or two.

Roxy.

Do you play poker?

Jack.

Well I think so.

Roxy.

Well out of every fifty men who think they can play poker forty nine have another guess coming.

Jack.

I would like to have an oppotunity of demonstrating, that I am the odd man.

Luke.

When the boys get back if they aint busy we'll give you the chance. Say stran are you a gambling man?

Jack.

Not professionally.

Luke.

Ranchman.

Jack.

No.

Luke.

Prospector.

Jack.

No.

Luke.

Whats your bussiness.

~~ssssssssssss.~~

Jack.

Minding it.

Luke.

Minding what?

Jack.

Minding my bussiness. (Ent Bat. Allison, and Toney)

Luke.

Say boys here's a starnger who refuses to state his Bussiness. (

All.

(Together)Whats that. (All draw)

Roxy.

He's alright boys I know him.

Luke.

I know him. (Aside) The Denver dude.

Roxy.

Of course, what is your name.

Jack.

(Aside to her) Delmar.

Roxy.

This is Mr Delmar gentlemen.

All.

(X to Jack shake hands) Glad to know you.

Luke.

I'm dammed if I am.

Jack.

Will you join me in a drink (All join but Luke) Are you the Wells fargo man

Jack.

I have heard of you .(To Luke)Wont you join us?

Luke.

I'm not drinking to-night,I'm afraid of that special bottle.It would not agree with me.

Jack.

Gentlemen to your better acquaintance,(They drink Jack pays)Now if you will excuse me for a minute,I want to see if my horse is alright.(Xit L.3.)

Luke.

I'll attend to his case later.Well Allison what did you find out?

Allis.

We seen the lady and she promised to have Garcia at her house at five O'clock.

Luke.

It is nearly that now we had better be going.

Sam.

I want to be in on this round up myself.

Luke.

No you'll stay here Roxy must'nt be left alone to-night.come on Allison.

Roxy.

Goos night boys I hope you get the road agent,if he shows up here I'll hold him untill you get bac k (Laughs)(All exit C.D.)

-----NUMBER-----

Roxy.

(Ent after No)(Betsy ent L.)

Betsy.

Where's all the boys.

Roxy.

Gone on a still hunt for Garcia,

Betsy.

Guess I had better go home e load my shot gun.

Roxy.

There's a five thousand dollar reward for him dead or alive.

Betsy.

Thats a heap of money,there's a storm coming i hope the boys dont get caught in it----say Roxy.

Roxy.

Well Betsy.

Betsy.

Do you remember the last big snow storm we had.

Roxy.

Well I guess I do i was caged up here for a week.

Betsy.

Well there's another coming just as big as that and you had better come stay with me.

Roxy.

Could'nt think of it.

Betsy.

Why not,I can't see why you want to live up here all alone for,but then I guess there is no use trying to make you change your mind.

Roxy.

Not a bit thank you just the same.

Sam.

Ent C.)

Betsy.

Coming to supper pretty soon Sam?

Sam.

Not untill the boys get back widow.

Betsy.

Alright I'll keep it warm for you,Good night Roxy.

Roxy.

Goos night.

Betsy.

(Exits C.D.)

Roxy

Sam, when are you and Betsy going to get married?

Sam

Just as soon as she gets spunk enough to ask me.

Roxy

To ask you, why don't you ask her?

Sam

She's got to show me how bad she wants me, then I will be boss of the ranch.

Jack

(enter C) Wellmy horse is comfortable, hello where is the crowd.

Roxy

Gone to get Garcia.

Jack

Is that so?

Roxy

Yes, senorita Carmentrella sent word to Allison he was coming there to see her tonight, and she is counting on getting the reward. (Jack laughs quietly) "What are you laughing at?"

Jack

I was just wondering what senorita Carmentrella would do with all that money well I am glad they are gone anyway. (X to B takes off coat puts it on table)

Roxy

So am I. (to Sam) Sam, go and find Fawn and tell her to have my supper ready by two, I want to eat early tonight.

Sam

(aside) Shall I leave you alone with him?

Roxy

Sure, he's all right, (Exit Sam L 3) Now you'll have a drink, won't you?

Jack

No thanks, none for me.

Roxy

I've been thinking about you while you were out looking after your horse.

Jack

And I have been thinking about you ever since last summer, when I saw you on the road to Glenwood.

Roxy

Well, I have come to the conclusion that you are so good that you don't believe in drinking, or so bad that you are tired of life, and good whiskey so who are you anyway, a travelling missionary.

Jack

(up to bar) Well, I have done a good many things in my life, that I am not exactly proud of but I am not a missionary. And as for being tired of life I haven't reached that stage yet. I know the joy of living more than ever now. And I want to teach it to you. (leans over bar)

Roxy

I don't believe I got much to learn that way.

Jack

That very statement showed your ignorance, Roxy, I want to ask you a question

Roxy

I know what it is, every stranger that comes to the ridge asks me the same question but I did not expect it of you, am I decent----well, I am.

Jack

You are wrong that is a question I don't need to ask, I have eyes and I know something about women, No I was wondering how you came to be in this place.

Roxy

It was my father's, and when he died, he left it to me.

Jack

And you are happy here?

Of course---why not?

Roxy

Jack
This isn't just the life for a girl like you.

Roxy

I don't see why not, it seems to me the saloon business is a good one to bring up a girl in, gives her a knowledge of the world, she couldn't get no other way.

Jack

The standards of civilizations are different out here to what they are in the East.

Roxy

Oh, you have been in the East, Kansas City and St. Louis.

Jack

I went to school in St. Louis.

Roxy

That's where my dad came from I don't know how many years ago, Long before I was borned I have always thought that I would like to go there.

Jack

Perhaps someday you will little girl.

Roxy

(half sitting on table jumps up) Oh

Jack

Whats the matter?

Roxy

I sat on my gun/ (takes gun from her pocket and puts it in other pocket)
Don't any girls in St Louis keep saloons.

Jack

Well if they do they are not recognized in polite society. (peculiar whistle heard outside, aside) Yman's whistle, I wish I could stay longer but I have a long hard ride ahead of me tonight.

Roxy

Must you go.

Jack

Yes as soon as some of your friends return I must start.

Roxy

I was hoping you would stay here for a n hour or so, we could have a good talk all by ourselves.

Jack

I wish I could.

Roxy

I want to hear more about the great world outside these mountains and canyons this is all I have ever known. It never struck me before that there was anything any better than this. I have just lived here with the boys for my firends, they are rough but they are honest, and they like me.

Jack

How could they help it, little girl?

Roxy

I never knew how ignorant I was. Luke, Sam and all the boys have always bragged on me for how much I knew and how fine I looked, that I ought to get wise to there talk, there all such damn liars. (up to bar sadly)

Jack

They spoke they truth, little girl; your wisdom is not learned from books. (whistle heard again) I can't leave you. I'll be back a little later.

Roxy

Oh will you? I 'm so glad, just take this lantern to light your way. Just follow a moment, I suppose you saw a lot of girls in St. Louis. didn't you.

Jack

Oh, yes, a good many.

Roxy

I have some pictures of them, wearing silks and diamonds, with daninty little hands and hair the color of the sun, and beautiful faces, the boss of the ranchmans rest aint a bit like them, is she?

Jack

You have no cause to cry any woman little girl, you are the child of nature and as for your looks----(close to her) to me you have the face of an angel (up to door and looks at her) Jack Delmar, whats come over you? (exit C)

Roxy

(leans on bar and turns to audience) He said I had the face of an angel (gives a smile sigh of contentment changes) I wonder if he is stringing me. Oh hell! (exit L.)

NUMBER

Roxy

(enter aft number dressed in tight dress and ribbon in hair blade) MI wonder how Jack will like my new dress its the best one I could find in Sears and Roebucks Catalogue. (starts for door)

Jack

(enter as she goes to door) Where you going out? My how nice you look?

Roxy

Yes---no, of course not.

Jack

I thought, (starts to embrace her) Roxy.

Roxy

(ducks) No, you don't, no this evening, you keep your hands to yourself.

Jack

I beg your pardon, I had no right but seeing you standing there the lady of my dreams I just could not resist the temptation.

Roxy

Well, it will go in dreams perhaps, you had better take off your coat and hat, and stay awhile----if you can stop dreaming (fingers book)

Jack

Thanks I will (stagres off hat and coat) Whats that book

Roxy

Its a book written b. a man his name is Dante, gee its funny.

Jack

Dante funny.

Roxy

Oh, it aint all funny, but some of it so foolish---I had to laugh---o e ppece he is talking about some girl and he says one hour with her would be worth the whole world---just give him that hour and he wouldn't ask for his life afterwards.

Jack

And yet you know its true.

Roxy

Whats true?

Jack

An hour with the one you love is worth an eternity alone. (drops cigar and goes to her) Little girl, you are only a child, but the woman in you will awaken, and then ou will understand. Someone said that the devil carried the seed of love from hell and planted it here on earth, to make men sin for it, lots of widdom is sweet with the bitterness of life and bitter with the bitterness of death, sometimes only lasting an hour is worth having a lived a life time for----(wind is heard coming up gradually)

Roxy

No one else could make me believe that---but when you sayit here seems to be something in your voice---that makes me feel that I am asleep and never wanted to wake up.

Jack

It was fate that brought me to you tonight a fate that is stonger than any

stronger than any human power in the world, for me little girl, I love you.
(they embrace)

Roxy

And I love you, have loved you ever since I saw you standing by the stage ~~door~~ last summer on the road to Glenwood, I said to myself right then that if he wants me he can have me--and since that day I have been waiting and longing for you everyday of my life. (Kiss. Storm is raging outside flies open showing heavy snow fall they are unconscious of it. of it she has her head on his shoulder shot if heard in distance)

Jack

(starts) Whats that.

Roxy

Probably the boys hunting the road agent the poor devil.

Jack

Do you pit y him.

Roxy

Well, I never had any sypathy for that kind of peop~~le~~ before and I don't know but jaybe if we knew the truth about him he might not be so much to blame after all,

Jack

And had he known you six months ago he would now have nothing rega- to regards.

Roxy

Know me well he better not come around me if he is out in those mountains with Luke Short, and Clay Allison on his trail, I can see his finish and feel sorry for him, that don't mean that I am anxious for his society,

Jack

Its getting late dear I must go.

Roxy

So soon (puts arms around him gets coat and hat goes to door)

Jack

"Why there has been a storm/

Roxy

So there has and us here and we didn't know it, well that settles it, the fate you was talking about alas dropped on you now (snow is falling) You can't go now---you have got to stay here (table)

Jack

Impossible.

Roxy

Is it you couldn't find your way in that storm --the paths are all covered with snow already as well as I know the paths I wouldn't tackle it---why before you had gone ten feet you would be lying at the bottom of the canyon You might as well make up your mind to be comfortable here tonight. If we get snowed in the boys will come and dig us out in the morning.

Jack

You are right, I can't fight fate. (drops hat in chair she blts door)
(he sits in front of fire-place)

Roxy

Say I just happened to think of somet~~ing~~---Like Short said to you tonight he asked you if you came to the ridge to see senorita Carmentella now ~~she~~ to tell the truth, was it fate or the Spanish girl that brought you here?

Jack

It wasn't the Spanish lady--at all events I haven't the honor of her acquaintance, and have no desire to meet her.

Roxy

"nd you really care for me?

Jack

More than anyone I have ever known---we will go away from here, you and I together wh~~ere~~ no one will know who we are or where we came from you will go with me sweetheart.

Did you ever see a girl that wanted to go to heaven alone.

Jack

My little wife. (kisses her)

Roxy

Well, I aint that yet, but theres one of those gospel fellows over at Meeker and we can't get to him tomorrow if the blizzared don't snow us in. But it is getting late, and we will want to get an early start in the morning. I hate to say it, but I could stay here and listen to you talk all night. But I suppose we have got to get some rest. (goes to bed) You take the bed and I'll roll up in front of the fire (gets pillow from bed)

Jack

Certainly not, I would not rob you of your bed.

Roxy

Thats all right, I'd be comfortable on a rock pile tonight, I'm so happy I don't believe I will sleep a wink tonight any how. (picks up over coat)

Jack

Be careful.

Roxy

How many guns do you carry anyhow?

Jack

Several when I'm travelling. (Roxy spreads sking in front of fire place Jack looks in room throws hat and coat in) I hope she never knows, She shan't know if we get to Meeker safe, there we can get a train and in forty eight hours we will be in Gods country where I can make a fresh start, where I can hold up my head again among honest men. (goes in room)

Roxy

Are you all right?

Jack

Couldntt be better.

Roxy

Good night.

Jack

Good night, sweetheart.

Roxy

(bus) Are you sure you don't know this senorita Carmentella

Jack

Never saw her in my life.

Roxy

(happy sigh) Good night (bus) Say whats your first name?

Jack

Jack,

Roxy

Good night,

Jack

Good night, dear. (loud knock at door both jump up he from room he whispers Whats that?)

Roxy

I don't know (up to door) Whose there

Luke

(outside) Luke Short and Allison all safe

Roxy

Of course.

Luke

Garcia is somewhere on the mountain.

Roxy

Garcia/

Luke

Open the door,

Jack

(whispers) Don't let them in, tell them you have gone to bed.

Roxy
You can't come in, I have gone to bed, I'm in bed now.

Luke
We are frozen let us come in and thaw out by the fire (Roxy hides Jack and fixes herself, unlocks door and goes D R Luke, Luke, Bat and Allison enter D C) I don't like the idea of you being up here all alone, with that road agent loose in the ridge.

Roxy
I thought senorita Carmentella was going to turn him over.

Luke
He was too roxy he didn't come

Roxy
Kinda strange where he got to, wasn't it?

Alli
The chances are that he is at the bottom of the canyon.

Sam
Well, if he is we are beat out of our hanging. (sits L of table)

Luke
Who do you think Garcia is?

Roxy
I don't know who is he

Luke
Your friend, Mr Delmar, that you introduced me to tonight.

Roxy
You can't give me anything like that, Luke.

Luke
It's true, Carmentella says she knows him, she gave us proof here is the proof, she gave us his photo. (gives her photo) With his love on the back (all laugh)

Roxy
(reads photo) Tricked by senorita Carmentella, it looks like you are right Luke, but it don't make any difference to me, but you are wasting your time here, why don't you get.

Sam
(finds cigar, aside) By God, he's here.

Roxy
No hurry, boys, but I aint in the habit of receiving callers at this time of the night.

Alli
It's late, come on boys (Alli up to door)

Sam
That's right let a lady go to bed goodnight Roxy (All exit D C Roxy X and unlock door where Jack is)

Roxy
Good night, boys, good night, come out Mr Stage robber so you lied to me

Jack
Yes, but I---

Roxy
Don't you speak, I won't listen to nothing you say, there is the door you go. I ought to have given you up to them, but I didn't want them to see what a fool I was. (sits L of table)

Jack
There is nothing I can say in my defense, I am all that you believe me and there is no excuse I can offer for the evil I have done---for knowing the right I chose the wrong. I came by my profession honestly, my father before me was an outlaw, I was brought up and educated by the money, but until he died six months ago I did not know it, then I came home and found myself the owner of the worthless ranch---with the men who has been his band waiting for me to return---they made me his successor---after the first raid I grew to love the life---the wild rides the danger and excitement all appealed to me---but I drew the line at killing at least I am innocent of that.

Go (points to door)

Jack

But I want you to believe a you must believe me, when I entered this place tonight I made a vow never to touch a dollar that I cannot claim as honestly being mine.

Roxy

It aint that thats hurting me---you don't know what it means to a girl my first kiss and you lied to me--you know that other woman senorita Carmentrella thats why I am sending you out on the mountain to meet the death that there's no chance of you escaping.

Jack

Yes, and I'm ready to meet it. After all what is death that a man should be afraid of. It is only a gasp, and all is over (up to D C) So good-bye little girl good bye. (exit quickly)

Roxy

Jack, come back, don't go out, Jack---he's gone. I'll run out the back way and stop him (exit L)

NUMBER

(after number shot off C)

Roxy

(enter from room runs to door)

Jack

(enters holding side) They've got me.

Roxy

(helps him) JACK, YOU MUSN't die, I'm going to save you. (Luke knocks on door) Shhhh---(looks around sends him off L) For my sake, Jack, she musn't find you here now. (helps Jack in room) (goes to door) Whose there?

Luke

Sheriff of Red Blanco county.

Roxy

In a moment (hides his hat slowly opens door Luke enters with revolver drawn looks around and pauses)

Luke

What kept you?

Roxy

I was in bed and had to dress.

Luke

You don't seem to have gotten into many clothes at that.

Roxy

(puts robe over lap) Seems to me you are making a lot of calls tonight.

Luke

This is one of my official capacity. Where is he?

Roxy

Here's who?

Luke

That damned road agent. (Roxy starts to speak, rises) Don't lie to me, I saw the shadow of a man at your door, and I fired, you know I never miss my aim, he's here, and I'm going to get him, (goes to R corner)

Roxy

That settles everything Luke Short, you leave this place and don't you dare show your face where I am again, I thought you were a brave man (go to R) But you are a coward, a contemptible sneaking coward, and I want you to know men don't come here after closing hours.

Luke

That's funny.

Roxy

Yes, damned funny, aint it?

Luke

I'll find him though if I have to follow him to Denver, I'll get him.

Roxy.

Thats your bussiness, you're a man hunter thats what you get paid for.

Luke.

That aint the only reason in this case. When I saw you and him together to-nigh I knew that it was him that had come between us. and there is no man that can live and do that.

Roxy.

You talk foolish Luke. (X to R.)

Luke.

Do I? well if I do it aint to be wondered at, tonight I asked you to be my wife and you laughed at me, no woman ever did that before. But I wont give you up, I'm asking you here and now, and you're going to give me a different answer, you're going to say yes aint you gal?

Roxy.

(Nervous) Maybe Luke. Give me untill tomorrow to think it over.

Luke.

Alright Roxy, Good night, then tomorrow, (Bus blood on chair marked spot) Wont you say goodnight.

Roxy.

Why of course.

Luke.

(Puts hand on chair feels blood) Whats that; Blood".

Roxy.

Must have cut your hand Luke, There was a fellow broke a bottle in that chair today.

Luke.

(Takes handkerchief wipes blood off.) There is no cut on my hand not even a scratch. (Bus follows blood stain on floor leading to R L walks and turns quick draws fan) He's here. (points in room) Come out, Mr Road Agent, Mr Whoman winner, come out. (Jack comes out, Luke grabs him by hair and throws him in chair back of table)

Roxy

No, no, Luke, don't murder him, I love him, Luke. (Luke starts to shoot) Don't Luke, don't shoot, wait.

Luke

Wait for you. (throws her R C and laughs) Well, this is luck, you wanted to play a little poker last night, Well, we'll have a game now (pause) You aint so brave you were, are you (laughs)

Roxy

(hand falls on gun on bar) Stop laughing, Luke, Short setp it I say. or I'll finish you. (points gun, Luke stops laughing) (she goes to Luke) Now he is out of it and I have a proposition to make to you, You're a gambler and I'm a gambler. I was brought up on gambling money so I can play straight poker, two best out of three.

Luke

(quickly) Do you know that you are talking to the sherriff?

Roxy

I'm talking to Luke Short the gambler (pause Luke X L corner) Knowing your wife is in El Paso, I am yours and he is your prisoner if you win but if you lose he is mine, and the fact that he is here a prisoner must remain a secret between you and me.

Luke

You got my game, girl, but let me tell you if I win---I'll make you pay for every pang you have made me suffer here tonight.

Roxy

I'll get the cards, (gets pat hand puts in boot)

Luke

Never mind, I got the cards here. I got the cards here (puts deck on table C and sits L of table)

Roxy

(X R C

Roxxy
Roxxy.

(R.C. in front of table.) There is a lot depends on this game tonigh so we'll have a new deck. (Throws cards on the table.)

Luke.

(Shuffles cards lays them on table. Roxxy starts to deal) Out for deal. (They Do

Roxxy.

My deal.

Luke.

No my deal. (Deals poker hand)

Roxxy.

What you got.

Luke.

Ace high.

Roxxy.

Ace high.

Luke.

Jack.

Roxie.

Queen.

Luke.

You win that one, but remember this is the best two out of three.

Roxxy.

Two best out of three.

Luke.

What do you see in him Roxxy.

Roxxy.

Cut em, (Luke does so) What do you see in me Luke.

Luke.

Eh, (Looks at cards) What you got.

Roxxy.

Pathetically) Ducees.

Luke.

Sevens. (Sealing) Thats one apiece this hand tell the tale.

Roxxy.

Yes this hand tell the tale. (Luke starts to look at cards Roxxy puts her hand on his) Wait you said awhile ago that we had always been friends and no matter how the game goes, I want you to always think kindly of me as you can.

Luke.

You know what I think of you Roxxy, and you know the stakes we are playing for tonight. But something tells me that I am in luck, and that I will win and that in another minute I will have you in my arms yes, yes, I win a diamond flush. (Rising Roxxy pretends to faint)

Roxxy.

Water, water,

Luke.

Where is it.

Roxxy.

Behind the bar. (As he goes to get it she takes pat hand from boot.)

Luke.

Oh you fainted because you lost. (Gives her water.)

Roxxy.

No I fainted because I won.

Luke.

What have you got?

Roxxy.

Three queens and a pair of kings.

Luke.

Oh hell. Well I guess you win. (Lus sad looks at Jack fingers gun bus to door) good night Roxxy. (Exit)

Roxxy.

Jack you are all mine bevanse I won you with a hand full of face cards. But you have got to leave here in a hurry before anyone else shows up come I'll start you on the trail and god bless you. (They both exit C.)

-----NUMBER-----

Luke.

(Knocks on door after no)(Ent with Sam)

Sam.

Well I guess he's safe by this time.

Luke.

Yes.

Sam.

With Allison over at Delmonicos asleep and probably dreaming that ME train robber is at the foot of the canyon under twenty feet of snow that is the best joke I ever heard of. (laughs)

Luke.

You call it a joke Sam, Well I dont when I think she is kissing him.

Sam.

Oh she did'nt kiss him.

Luke.

Of course she kissed him.

Sam.

Well I'll say one thing for you Luke you're a gentleman.

Luke

Hell, maybe I showed myself a gentleman but I'm a damn bad sheriff. Sam, the more I see of humans the less I understand them myself. included for I guess I'm human that fellow shows up at the ridge a stranger to us all Here we are, men that Roxy has known for hears ever since she was a kid we have treated her square and she passes us up for him

Sam

There is no accounting for this thing when that thing called love gets inot the game, its like strong liquor after a man gets arazy for it, it runs through the veins burning the blood and firing the brain with a frezzy of hope, it weakens the strong and strengthens the weak, it makes heroes out of cowards and robs brave men of thier courage. You've got it, I ve got it, the galls got it---the whole damn world has it. It is about all the heaven there is on earth and 99 times out of a hundred its hell.

Luke

(pausing pouring out drink) Empty.

Sam

(up ^) I'll get you a drink, Luke.

Lukes

No thanks, I'll take a little walk I don't feel right here now.

Sam

Wait a minute the boys will be here and Roxy ought to be back soon.

Luke

"hen they find out she had the road agent hiding here, they won't be so darned glad to come here

Sam

You aint going to tell him, Luke.

Luke

You know me better than to ask that question, Sam, I always pay my gambling debts, and I never break my word to a friend; Roxy had my promise and her secret is safe with me. (both exit R 2)

NUMBER

(Enter do or Left carrying small oil stove lighted) Sam is always hollerang about being cold, so I brought this stove over to him (places stove under chair gets another and places next to it together) I'll just put this chair over it to keep someone from kicking it over I aint had a chance to speak to Sam for three hours I'll just wait for him '(Sam enters from C) Hello. Sam.

Sam

Hell, Betsy, I've been thinking about you, I've got something I want to say to you. Come on over and sit down.

(sits in chair L of one stove under) What is it, Sam?

Sam

(sits in chair over stove) Its been on my mind for a long time, Betsy.
(moves uneasily)

Betsy

Now is the chance to say it, Sam

Sam

You know I always had a liking for you r society , my but its warm in here.
(takes out handkerchief and wipes face)

Betsy

Keep cool Sam don't get excited (aside) I've been waiting for this for years

Sam

(slides over to edge of chair and wipes brow) I didn't know it would be such a warm undertaking or I wouldn't have started now. (slides to other side of chair)

Betsy

Sam, But you're just like a fly, always buzzing but never lighting.

Sam

But I'm willing to light (slides about chair)

Betsy

Sit still man, you make me nervous

Sam

(same bus) Betsy you reckon hell is very hot?

Betsy

Don't be foolish, Sam, there aint no such place as hell.

Sam

I don't feel like it is six feet away particularly as I feel like I am blistering.

Betsy

Your heart, Sam

Sam

Well---not exactly. (slides about chair Luke take cartridge from belt and pretends to drop it on stove---under Sam exits)

Betsy

Are you going to pop, Sam?

Sam

Well, if I ge any hotter I will do more ise than that I'll blow up Betsy we have known each other a long time, and you aint as yet given me a kiss.

Betsy

That aint my fault, Sam.

Sam

Well, it aint going to be mine any longer. (arms about her) Come into camp. (shot off stage to imitate cartridge exploding on stove Betsy screams and jumps on bar holding her skirts Sam draws and fires wildly jumps up beside her enter Luke hand Bat R 3)

Luke

Whats the row, what are you two doing up thet?

Sam

Betsy accused me of buzzing and never lighting, but I lit this time Luke I told you the whole world had it , Betsy is going to be Mrs Burton.

Luke

Thats all right Sam, I aint got no objections

Sam

Didn't I tell you the whole world had it Luke---without regards to race or previous conditions of servitude.

Luke

Is Sam don't qualify this that double wedding Bat you're ready with entrance fee aint you?

You think you're some kidder, don't you, Luke. I may fool you a trip
(Luke seated at table R laughs sneeringly) (Roxy enter C)

Roxy

Hello, boys hello Betsy (All thourng scene Luke is seated in chair R with back to Roxy)

Bat

Sam says you wans't feeling very well, Roxy.

Roxy

Sam was right, Betsy, I wans 't feeling very well, I wanted to be alone.

Betsy

If you did 'want to see anyone thats your business I never was one of those kind, to poke my hand in anywhere I wasn't wanted

Bat

But you're all right now, aint you, Roxy

Roxy

Yes, I feel a little better, but I'm going away from the ridge;

Bat

Going away, you don't mean to say you are going to leave us for good?

Roxy

I guess thats about it--

Bat

But---

Roxy

I can't explain now you will know all about it someother time, but I can't explain now, I do not want any changes here at the test, I want Sam to run the place just the same as if I was here---and I want you to know that I will always be thin'ing of you and wishing you good luck and happy days.
(X to Luke) Luke, I want to thank you.

Luke

Don't thank me, it was that full hand you held that saved him

Roxy

He is away safe aint he?

Luke

He is safe as far as Red Blance is concerend--that is a cinch he got started as soon as I met you on the rail.

Roxy

Thank god/

Luke

Thank God you had better thank that thourbred mare he was riding.

Roxy

Come in here a minute Betsy I want to have a talk with you.

Betsy

Why of course I will if I can do anything for you you can count on me everytime. (both exit R 3)

Bat

Roxy's going away from the ridge, why what does she want to leave us for?

Luke

That generally takes a girl away from her home and her friends?

Bat

Well generally speaking they are stuck on a man.

Luke

You've said it .

Bat

But I don't see how she could get stuck on anybody that wants to take her away from the ridge she hasn't had a chance.

Luke

Hasn't she? Our eyes are good in a ame of sham bat, but they aint worth a damn when it comes to the ways of wimmin.

Bat

But I don't understand there aint nobody her to see her who is it.

Luke

MR Jack Delmar the road agent.

Bat

That's a lie, Luke Short you're sore because she throwed you down and you're saying things behind her back that you wouldn't say to her face.

Luke

Am I, ask Sam?

Sam

It's true, Bat

Bat

But Jack Delmar is dead.

Luke

Dead? (pause) He is the liveliest corpse in Colorado unless he has cashed in the last two hours when he started to Meeker on that thoroughbred of his.

Bat

And you let him escape Luke Short, you the sheriff of Rio Blanco county and if you have double crossed us you had better resign, and get away from here damn quick or the boys will take you for a substitute----then where would you be?

Luke

If the boys have any business with me, they know where to find me. (Allie enters down hearted bat in hand) Well, you got him did you.

Allie

Yes, I got him and I don't mind telling you, I'm sorry and if I would have knowed who he was, I would have left the job of capturing him to someone else.

Luke

What's the matter, Clay?

Allie

I knew the boys mother thirty years ago, Luke she was to be my wife but his father stole her away from me---theres never been another woman for me since---and well theres something about the boy that reminds me of her that's all.

Sam

Theres another one. (Jack enter with hands tied brought in by Allison)

Luke

So you're back again, hey, well I didn't do it so she can't blame me I suppose you know what you're going to get/

Jack

Yes, well you've won and I lost--but before you string me up I got one favor I want to ask, don't think I'm afraid of death, A man hunted as a I have been but I don't want her to know the truth---let her think I got away and will look for a better for me---and they won't come and she will think I have forgotten her so when you are ready take me away from the ridge. Down yonder in the canyon some where

Roxy

(off stage) All right, Betsy.

Sam

Sh--- (boys hide Jack)

Roxy

(enter D R) Don't any of you boys go away I got something to tell you. (exit D R Sam closes door)

Luke

Well, I don't see any objections its understood the girl is not to know are you ready.

Sam

(coming D R C) Luke it strikes me that under the circumstances it strikes me that the girl ought to have a chance to tell the cuss good bye---she need not know what is going to happen

Luke

No.

Sam

It is a general custom when you gave Simpkins his air dance, you let his girl see him.

Luke

I say not

Sam

(to boys) You must forgive Luke for being so small and so mean ---the fact is he is hard hit with the tender spot in this case---and it makes him forget he is a gentleman.

Luke

I don't know as I am so mean and small and when it comes to the gentleman question, I guess I show about as strong as any of them as if finding fault after thinking it over I will let her see him, It is a pretty good plan for we will hear everything that is said---the fact is I got a curiosity to know---

Sam

Luke (double gun play between Sam and Luke)

Luke

I have lost a good deal of my faith in angels untie him (boys do so and Luke X over to Jack who is L as boys X up to Doc) Lie to her if you can't think of someting to say, so she won't suspect the truth. (boys follow Luke Roxy enters D R sees Jack)

Roxy

You (goes to Jack) Why did you come back.

Jack

Dear, there is nothing to fear, I couldnot go away.

Roxy

Oh jack, you s ouldn't have come, it was only for a few days that we were to be seperated---you know that-- I would have come to you as soon as you sent for me.

Jack

Yes, dear, as soon as I send for you.

Roxy

You must not go out now, I'll find some way to keep them out of this room but even then they may see you and take you from me (crying)

Jack

(kisses her) Don't cry, there is one way for me to leave the ridge, and I am going to take it, but suppose you shouldn't hear from me?

Roxy

Jack.

Jack

For a long long time.

Roxy

I'd stay right here waiting until I did---it would not make any difference in my love for you, wheather it was weeks months or years---

Jack

Roxy, do you remember when you went to bed last night, I watched you say a prayer I want you to repeat the prayer for me, perhaps I believe in it, a and perhaps I don't. but I hope I do. ut say that prayer for me just for luck dear. (Roxy kneels says prayer X to herself Luke, Sam, Bat and boys enter in time to hear prayer all take off hats) And now I must say good bye for the last time.

Roxy

No, no, you musn't go (Luke moves chair) You knew he was here he's a prisoner, and you are going to murder him, but you'll not harm him (bus) Boys, listen to me, you all claim to be my friends---don't you--boys I love him if yousee fit to kill yok kill me, boys don't take him from me.

Jack

Be brave dear, it has got to be, I have broken there lawa nd it is only right that I should pay the prise, I don't care for mysalf; it is only the horror of it all for you that hurts.

Roxy

(arms around Jack's neck) no, no.

Roxy, I don't think any of us realized just where this man stood to you but when he saw you praying over the cuss--well we made up our minds that the claim you held on him was stronger than that of the law.

Roxy

You--- mean

Luke

We mean to give him to you, and I reck on there aint nnyone in Blanco County going to call my bets when Luke Short and Clay Allison lay down there hands (hand shakes between Luke and Allison)

Roxy

Do you hear that dear-- (X to Jack) You are free----free---

Jack

My little savior-- (to boys) I don't know how to thank you boys. (X C) for giving me a chance to redeem myself.

Pat

We don't want any thanks from you, Mr Man it is for her we are doing this the the girl knows that every man on the ridge, would give his life to see her happy, we don't care a damn for you.

All

(comes down R C) I knew your mother my boy----for her sake, I want to give you a chance--- (goes to D C) All right boys (to Jack) I'm going to ride to Meeker with you. I will see you safe on a train for Denver there is no one there to remind you of the past (exit D C)

Roxy

Come dear, our new life together is not a dream after all. (both go up D C) Good bye, my hills of California, good bye. (exit R)

(Luke slowly lets hat fall on floor)

Luke

(Sam pushes dog on from R U) Come little pal, I guess you and I will hit the long trail together.

FINALE